Lack of infrastructural facilities in H.P.

1862. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that disparity between backward, hilly, far-flung areas and developing areas in Himachal Pradesh has increased, keeping the backward, hilly and far-flung areas in the State backward due to lack of proper infrastructure facilities inspite of incentives given by Government to set up industries in these areas; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) After the announcement of the new industrial policy, investment decisions are left to the commercial perceptions of the entrepreneurs. Promotion of industrial development in backward areas is primarily dependent on the initiative of the State Governments. The Union Government supports efforts of the States through schemes like the Growth Centre Scheme, the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme etc.

Under the Growth Centre Scheme 71 growth centres are proposed to be developed through out the country with the Central assistance of Rs. 10 crore per growth centre (Rs. 15 crore in the case of North Eastern States). Each growth centre would be endowed with basic infrasturcture facilities to attract industrial units in the identified industrially backward areas. Under this scheme, one growth centre has been approved at Kangra (District Kangra) in Himachal Pradesh and an amount of Rs. 450 lakh has been released for this growth centre as Central assistance.

Under the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme which envisages development of infrastructure facilities to facilitate location of small scale units in rural backward areas, the following two IID centres have been sanctioned in Himachal Pradesh.

(1) Village Bhamla Tehsil (District Mandi), and

(2) Village Gwalthai (District Bilaspur).

N.E. Industrial Policy 1997

1863. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilites/incentives offered under N.E. Industrial Policy

1997 cover the extra cost burden involved in setting up industries in the region; and

(b) if not, what is the immediate proposal of Government to neutralise the extra cost as also to attract private investment in N.E. States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The concessions contained in the new Industrial policy for the North Eastern Region announced on 24.12.1997 are intended to reduce the infrastructural disadvantages of setting up industries there. There is no immediate proposal to modify the policy.

Production of Spices

1864. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of various spices in the country during this financial year;

(b) what is the total consumption of spices in the country;

(c) what is the total export of spices from the country; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the export from the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The lastest estimates of production of various spices in the country are available for the year 1998-99 which show a production of 28,93,030 tonnes.

(b) the consumption of spices in the country is not assessed.

(c) Export of Spices from India during the period April, 1999 to January, 2000 was 157,435 tonnes valued at Rs. 145783.80 lakhs as reported by the Spices Board.

(d) Beside the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include rationalisation of cess on export of spices @ 0.5% to make them price competitive in the overseas market, implementation of brand promotion schemes like "Logo Promotion", grant of "Spices House Certificate" as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products, setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.